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*O Sacred Heart, O Love Divine
 Do keep us near to Thee
 And make our love so like to Thine
 That we may holy be*

[REFRAIN]
*Heart of Jesus, hear
 O Heart of Love Divine
 Listen to our prayer
 Make us always Thine*

*O Temple pure, O House of gold
 Our Heaven here below
 What sweet delights, what wealth untold
 From Thee do ever flow [REF]*

*Ungrateful hearts, forgetful hearts
 The hearts of men have been
 To wound Thy side with cruel darts
 Which they have made by sin [REF]*

Tuesday, Dec. 31 – Vigil Mass for New Year 2025 & Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God – 12NOON Saint Cecilia / 6PM Sacred Heart

Tuesday, Jan. 7– 6PM PASTORAL PLANNING with Tom Cronin. PPC, Trustees, Officers & Members should plan to attend. Venue: St. Mary’s Church Hall, Amsterdam

The 2025 Holy/Jubilee Year: 2024 - A YEAR OF PRAYER for the 2025 JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE

Pope Francis has declared a Jubilee Year of Hope in 2025. He has also announced a year of prayer in preparation for the Jubilee. The Holy Father announced its launch on 21st January 2024, the fifth annual celebration of the ‘Sunday of the Word of God’. Earlier, the Pope had written: “From now on I am happy to think that the year preceding the Jubilee event, 2024, will be dedicated to a great ‘symphony’ of prayer so as to rediscover the desire to be in the presence of the Lord, to listen to him and adore him.” Recently, the Dicastery for Evangelization issued a prayer resource in Italian. “Teach Us to Pray” is now available online in English, Spanish, French, Portuguese, and Polish. For free downloads, please visit: <https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en/giubileo-2025/verso-il-giubileo/2024-anno-della-preghiera.html>

Calendar of Events
 May 9, 2024 Pope Francis released the Bull of Indiction “Spes non confundit” (Hope does not disappoint)
 December 24, 2024 Jubilee Year begins in Rome on the Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord
 December 29, 2024 (Holy Family Sunday) Jubilee Year begins in local dioceses
 December 28, 2025 (Holy Family Sunday) Jubilee Year concludes in local dioceses
 January 6, 2026 Jubilee Year concludes in Rome
 *Various Celebrations will occur throughout the year at the Vatican and in the Dioceses of the United States. For example, there will be weeks for artists, communicators, military, healthcare workers, persons with disabilities, deacons, youth, etc. For a complete calendar of these occasions, please visit Jubilee Celebration Calendar.pdf (usccb.org)
 For a complete text of the Papal Bull <https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en/giubileo-2025/bolla.html> Several aspects of the Bull refer to liturgy and are well worth noting – Mass preparations; baptismal fonts; indulgences; the Common Date of Easter (the East and West will celebrate on the same date in 2025); reconciliation and missionaries of mercy; and more. It does not appear that local dioceses should formally have a “Holy Door,” but the Bull does encourage local pilgrimages to cathedrals and other sacred places.
 VATICAN RESOURCES -- <https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en.html>
 Resources/Webpages available in English, Spanish, Italian, French, German, Portuguese, Polish, Chinese and Arabic.



Sat. Dec 28, 4:00 pm (SH) - 1.) † For the holy innocents of abortion, starvation and war.

2.) † In memory of Helen & Steve Pawloski, requested by Barb Minch & family.

Sun. Dec 29, 9:00 am (SC)- 1.) † In loving memory of Donald R. Thum, requested by his wife Loretto, his children Chrissy & DJ and his grandchildren.

2.) † In memory of Theresa Vacek, requested by Pat & George Galeazza.

3.) † In loving memory of Leo Perry, requested by Marcia & his family.

Tues. Dec 31 thru Sun. Jan 5, 2024

Tue. Dec 31, 4:00pm (SH) - For the children of our parishes.

Tue. Dec 31, 7:00pm (SC) - For the people of the parish.

Wed. Jan 1, 9:00 am (SH) - For the people of the parish

Wed. Jan 1, 10:30 am (SC) - For the people of the parish.

Thurs. Jan 2, 8:00 am (SH) - Prayers and healing for Barbara and Brian Cope, requested by their church family.

Fri. Jan 3, 8:00 am (SC) - † In memory of Tami Pingitore, requested by Pat Galeazza Cathy Parry.

Sat. Jan 4, 4:00 pm (SH) - † Repose of the soul of David Dodge, requested by Beth DeRosa.

Sun. Jan 5, 9:00 am (SC)- 1.) † Repose of the soul of Ronald Laberge, requested by Carolyn Dunderdale.

2.) † In memory of Alphonso Mancini, requested by Andrea Moran.



GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

December 29, 2024 - The Holy Family

As a first-time pastor in a parish, I received a phone call one afternoon from a young married couple, “Father, our 2-year-old son drowned in our pool this morning. We are at the hospital. Please help us.” I sped over. The little boy was gone, his body cold, slightly blue, laid out on a bed. His parents were distraught and in shock. For the next few years, I walked with the couple along their difficult and painful road. They openly shared with me how they were often tempted to blame and accuse each other for the loss. And yet, by God’s grace, their love for each grew stronger and deeper as the years went by.

The Holy Family was not without its pain and loss, either. Luke tells us, after losing their twelve-year-old son, Joseph and Mary “after three days found him in the temple area, sitting among the teachers...” (Luke 2:46). We don’t know specifically what those three days were like for them except for what Mary says: “Your father and I have been looking for you anxiously.” The three days of his absence foreshadow his death and burial. His finding in the temple is a kind of resurrection for his family. They had to learn, again and again, that their family was becoming a place where death and resurrection was not only accepted but welcomed and celebrated. But surely they deeply felt the dangerous agony of their loss — just like every couple who has lost a child.

What losses in your experience of family still cause you anxiety? In what ways has God’s presence seemingly vanished in your family? Will you keep searching for Jesus? Remember, he will rise and be found. Your family may be suffering, but when he is found, it will be stronger than ever before.

-Father John Muir
©LPi

Lector/Eucharistic Ministers

Dec 28 (SH)	Cathy Parry Theresa Kovian	Jan 4 (SH)	Katherine Downing Kathy Avery
Dec 29 (SC)	Dianne Kierpiec Dave Marcais	Jan 5 (SC)	Kathy Marcais Dianne Kierpiec

Counters Schedule

Dec 30 (SH)	Noreen Brownell Deb Swarczewski	Jan 6 (SH)	Katherine Downing Deb Swarczewski
Dec 30 (SC)	Sandy Hayes Kathy Marcais	Jan 6 (SC)	Lorna Quinn Flo Stanton

Food Pantry

Dec 30 (SH)	Jamie Lemiszki John Nigro
Jan 22 (SC)	Andrea Moran Louise Carville Michele Furnare



† Altar wine at *Sacred Heart* for the month of *December* has been sponsored at the request of *Ron & Cathy Parry*.

† Altar hosts at *Sacred Heart* for the month of *December* have been sponsored at the request of *Ron & Cathy Parry*.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Saint Cecilia Weekly Raffle: Through the month of December (beginning Dec 1) we will be alternating a raffle weekly for baked good or a \$20 gift certificate from a local establishment. Raffle tickets will be \$1 per chance and will be available at the church entrance.

Saint Cecilia Bottle Drive: We will be collecting bottles/ cans at St. Cecilia. There will be a receptacle in the parking lot near the rectory entrance and also in the hall.

NO CARDS IN DECEMBER -St Cecilia Card Party : Due to extenuating circumstances, our card party will be canceled for December. We will keep you posted.

Spaghetti Dinner for 10th Grade Confirmation Class :

The 10th grade Confirmation class is selling tickets for a Spaghetti Dinner at Checkers Out on Rte. 30A. Tickets are \$12 each and include spaghetti, two meatballs, and a salad. Tickets can be purchased now through January 12th and can be redeemed on **ANY DAY FROM JANUARY 2nd THROUGH THE 31st** (closed Mondays). Dine in or call 518-736-4630 for takeout. You can purchase tickets from any 10th grade Confirmation student or text/call Angela Yetto at 315-439-4659 or angyetto@yahoo.com. Thank you for your support!

Save the Date—St. Kateri: May 28, Thurs, 6:30 PM

- A discussion on the book **A HEART FOR GOD** by Michael Youseff. This little book discusses the qualities the biblical figure King David of Israel had that were pleasing to God and what our life should look like if we have some of these qualities.

June 26, Thursday, 6:30 PM - A discussion on the book **PRAYER** by Bishop Robert Barron on the types of prayer in the Catholic tradition, comments by spiritual Masters, and how can I establish a solid routine of prayer.

**** For more information call the shrine at 518-853-3646 or Fr. Joe at 336-602-4412 ****

**Join us as we Open the Jubilee Year of 2025
In the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany**

Sunday, January 5, 2025

- **1:30pm:** Prayer Service (Collectio) begins at Historic Saint Mary's
- Pilgrimage begins after the Prayer Service (Collectio), half mile prayerful procession to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
- **3pm:** Mass begins at the Cathedral. Bishop Edward Scharfenberger presides.

Parking Options:

- **Park at the Cathedral** (in the lot behind the Cathedral or parking garage across the street).
 - If you plan to take part in the walk (pilgrimage), you can park at the Cathedral. A shuttle bus arrives at the Cathedral at 1pm to take you to Saint Mary's. The shuttle is for walkers only. **There is NO RETURN SHUTTLE.**
 - **To reserve a seat on the shuttle,** RSVP to Kathy Barrans at kathryn.barrans@rcda.org or (518) 801-2771.
- **Park at Historic Saint Mary's** - keep in mind, it will be dark when Mass ends at the Cathedral and you have to walk back to your car at Saint Mary's.

This is a great opportunity for us to come together as a people of faith to celebrate the start of a Holy Year.



To learn more about the Jubilee Year
<https://www.rcda.org/jubilee-2025>

May we all become Pilgrims of Hope



Second Collections
Jan 5 - Fuel/Heat

Mass Intentions: Mass Intentions are needed for both parishes. Having a Mass celebrated for a person or a specific request has a long history in the Catholic Church. Requesting a Mass is not only a sign of your own faith and flourishing, but of your heart for those who these Masses are intended.

January 1st
2025



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WORLD DAY OF PEACE 2025



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